October 6, 2025

Ms. Sametris McKenney, Assistant Principal
New Century International Middle School
7455 Century Circle
Fayetteville, NC 28306
E: sametrismckenney@ccs.k12.nc.us
T: 1-910-487-2001

RE: Parent Request: Student Class Change for [redacted]

Dear Assistant Principal Sametris McKenney,

I am writing to request a class change in placement for my son, [redacted] to be removed from his Social Studies Class with the teacher Ms. Rhesa Smith. He is currently in the 6th grade. I feel my son needs a different teacher, or alternative course of study please. My son is afraid of the teacher which is impacting his ability to learn and thrive in the class.

As you may know, I had to come to the school twice regarding the Teacher's conduct and the mistreatment towards my son in her class and I also expressed how Ms. Rhesa Smith also treated me differently in emails as a parent which all matters were discriminatory because other students and parents were not treated the same way by her. I can go into details if needed, but the focus of the letter is the best interest of my son and the class change request from Social Studies into another class which allows my son to be in an inclusive positive education learning environment.

After the meeting that was held in the school with the teacher in September regarding the teacher's conduct regarding my child, the situation escalated, instead of getting better with my son it became worse, and it has steadily gotten worse , creating fear in my child with the Teacher. To that end, this time it was also noticed with my son continuously getting grades below average and failing in the school with grades with "F" and "D" on all his paperwork, while other students produced less work and received higher grades in her Social Studies Class.

I also have additional concerns regarding the teacher making a difference between students in the class with my son which also includes her grading which has also been going on since school has started. As such, the matter with the Teacher has continued in the classroom, and now the 6th grade students/children are even noticing the difference among each other by the Teacher, Ms. Rhesa Smith which is not a positive learning and healthy environment for my child in her class.

Further, the Teacher Ms. Rhesa Smith has made certain comments in the class which are concerning at best and it's questionable if she really wants my child and other students to succeed in the educational learning environment in her class. At all times, my son and other students should be empowered to achieve their fullest educational potential.

Also, my child is afraid of the teacher daily; and specifically, my son can not communicate with the teacher even when he misplace homework assignments, and he is afraid of what she will do to him. This type of learning environment by the teacher will not allow my son to succeed and thrive in her Social Studies Class, but only hinders his education learning ability. The best interests of my child are paramount at all times and I certainly hope you can agree. No child should endure going into a classroom under such circumstances which impact them daily and their learning ability caused by the teacher.

Further, I also request this class change because the Teacher, Rheasha Smith also knows that my son is an classified Exceptional Child and has learning disabilities, and she not helped him succeed, but only made his learning barriers and struggles worse in her class.

For these reasons I am requesting this class change to another. I spoke to State Officials at the North Carolina Public Instruction (DPI) and they advised me to contact you to make the request for my son's change in the Social Studies Class. The teacher's behavior in the classroom with my son is highly intimidating and makes it highly unlikely he will ever learn anything under her instruction in the Social Studies Class because she is the teacher. By working together for the best interest of my son, we can achieve positive goals in the school.

I look forward to hearing from you soon and thank you for your attention regarding the matter. My daytime telephone number is 1-910-[redacted]. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

/s/ [redacted]

Cc: North Carolina Public Instruction (DPI)
Office for Civil Rights (OCR)